

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7955

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11529

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: BALUCH AND AFGHAN REFUGEES

REF: KABUL 7285

1. WHILE WE HAVE NO CLEAR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC CHARGES LEVELED BY BALUCH REFUGEES IN AFGHANISTAN AS PUBLISHED IN THE KABUL PRESS AND RELATED BY REFTEL--ALLEGATIONS WHICH THE GOP DISMISSES AS FANCIFUL AFGHAN PROPAGANDA--WE DO HAVE A FP MORE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS TO SUBMIT.

2. WE CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE, AS DOES CONGEN KARACHI WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ANALYSIS, THAT A FEW MENGALS AND MARRIS HAVE SLIPPED OVER THE BORDER DESPITE FACT THAT TRAILS FROM MARRI-BUGTI TRIBAL AGENCY TO AFGHANISTAN ARE LONG, DIFFICUTL, AND PRESUMABLY CONTROLLED BY PAK MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY UNITS. SOME REPORTS HERE INDICATE THAT ROUNDING UP AND AUCTIONING OF INSURGENTS' HERDS AND FLOCKS MAY BE A FEATURE OF ARMY PUNITIVE EXPEDITIONS. HOWEVER, WHILE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF ARMY ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERSTANDABLY SCARCE HERE, WE WOULD DOUBT THAT "CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT AND SHELLING",  
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ESPECIALLY OF LIVESTOCK AND FOODSTOCKS, IS TAKING PLACE.

SUCH ACTIONS STRIKE, US AS WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD THE PAKS, AS BOTH EXPENSIVE AND PROBABLY INEFFECTIVE. OTHER ATROCITY CHARGES AGAINST THE PAK ARMY ALSO APPEARED HIGHLY EXAGGERATED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT ARMY IS TRYING TO MAKE MAXIMUM PUBLIC RELATIONS MILEAGE WITH ITS CIVIC ACTION CAMPAIGN:

3. IT SEEMS REASONABLY CLEAR, AT LEAST FROM WHERE WE SIT, THAT GOA IS TRYING TO ATTRACT AS MUCH INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE TO ALLEGED REFUGEE EXODUS. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR MORRIS, WHO ALSO ACCREDITED TO KABUL, TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT WHILE ON RECENT KABUL/KANDAHAR/QUETTA TRIP, AFGHAN OFFICIALS ASKED HIM TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS. CANADIANS TELL US SAME WAS ASKED OF THEIR DUALY-ACCREDITED AMBASSADOR. BOTH AMBASSADORS, UNWILLING TO BE DRAWN INTO CONTROVERSY, DECLINED INVITATIONS. IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH EMBOFF, AMBASSADOR MORRIS HAZARDED THAT RATHER THAN BEING REFUGEES FROM PAK ARMY BOMBARDMENT, FAMILIES MAY HAVE BEEN SENT OUT OF HOSTILE AREAS BY INSURGENTS TO REDUCE IMPEDIMENTA WHEN HEADS OF FAMILIES RENEW FIGHTING OR THAT REFUGEES MAY BE FAMILIES OF THOSE ALREADY ROUNDED UP BY THE ARMY.

4. GOP HAS REACTED TO AFGHAN CHARGES IN PREDICTABLE FASHION. PRESS WITHIN LAST FEW WEEKS HAS ALMOST MIRRORED AFGHAN STOREIS BY PUBLICIZING ACCOUNTS OF SOME 60 AFGHAN BALUCH FAMILIES, NUMBERING OVER 300, WHO ARE SAID TO HAVE SOUGHT ASYLUM IN QUETTA AREA. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES NOVEMBER 30, CARRIED ACCOUNT HEADLINED "AFGHANS LIVING IN SUBHUMAN CONDITIONS", IN WHICH TRIBAL ELDER OF SHAH JOI IN KALAT PROVINCE QUOTED AS SAYING HUNDREDS MORE OF AFGHAN TRIBESMEN AWAITING SUITABLE TIME TO ESCAPE FROM "BARBARIANISM" OF KABUL RULERS. TO COMPLETE MIRROR IMAGE PAK PRESS REPORTS SAY PAK AUTHORITIES ARE EXTENDING ALL FACILITIES INCLUDING LODGING, FOOD, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL TREATMENT TO REFUGEES.

5. HERE, TOO, WE HAVE NO CONCRETE INFORMATION BUT WOULD ASSUME THAT THERE MIGHT WELL BE AT LEAST SOME GENUINE AFGHAN ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO HAVE CROSSED OVER INTO BALUCHISTAN. AT SAME TIME, WE 43, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT AFGHAN-PAK BORDER IS CROSSED UNOFFICIALLY BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PATHANS AND

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BALUCH SEEKING GREEN FIELDS AND REFUGE FROM COLD WEATHER. IT OCCURS TO US THAT CLEVER PROPAGANDISTS COULD FIND AMONG THEM A FEW TENS OR HUNDREDS WHO, LOOKING LIKE REFUGEES, WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO DENOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT OF WHATEVER AREA THEY HAVE JUST LEFT IN RETQRN FOR FAVORS. BYROADE

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